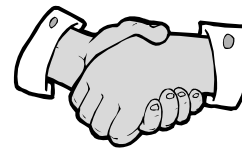


In Touch

The city's monthly source for service information

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An Ounce of Prevention Equals a Pound of Cure

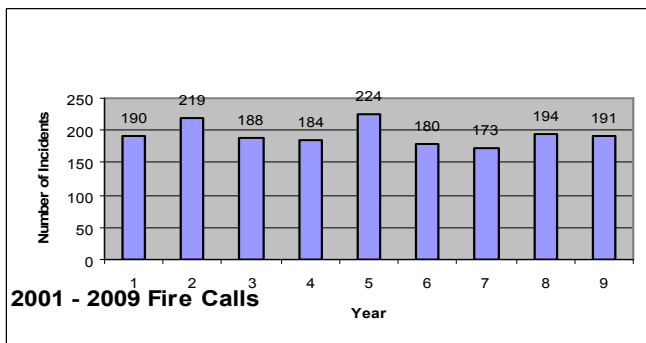
Fire Prevention Department

The Salina Fire Department is divided into 4 Divisions; Suppression, Emergency Medical, Training and Prevention. The Prevention Division is comprised of the Fire Marshal, 2 Prevention Officers, a part time Inspector and a Public Education Specialist.

The Fire Prevention Division is responsible for Fire Code Enforcement, Construction Plan Reviews, Fire Investigations and Public Education. All members of the Fire Prevention Division are also Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Providers and operate in that capacity at times of need.

Some of the services we provide are:

- Plan Reviews (Fire Alarm and Sprinkler Plans)
- Construction Inspections
- Fire Code Enforcement (Annual Fire Inspections)
- Follow Up Inspections
- Daycare Inspections
- Handle Citizen Complaints (Fire Safety Hazards)
- Fire Investigations (Cause and Origin)
- Life Safety Education
- Juvenile Fire Setter Program



The number of fires this decade has remained consistent. Data prior to 2001 is unreliable. These figures include structural, automobile and grass fires and do not include false alarms and automatic fire alarms.

The Benefits of Building and Fire Codes

Codes protect the public's health, safety, and welfare by reducing potential hazards. They keep construction cost down by providing uniformity in the industry and by providing consistent standards in construction. Finally, codes contribute to the well being of the community by preserving life and safety, as well as maintaining property value over time.

Does Fire Prevention Work?

The problem with any kind of prevention is: How do we know it's working? Does an apple a day really keep the doctor away? Statistically across the Nation, fire departments are responding to fewer fires. Is this just luck or the results of prevention? Here are two examples of Downtown Salina Fires that show what good prevention can accomplish.

The Great Christmas Fire

"Twas the night before Christmas 1871 but there was little holiday spirit in the spindling town of Salina. Weary, smoke begrimed men walked through singed ashes where the coals still glowed red on North Santa Fe. The fires' appetite hadn't been satisfied until twelve of the principal business houses had been leveled to the board walks."

~Excerpt from a Salina Newspaper Article~



It is believed that the fire started because a saloon owner dumped hot ashes behind the building. Buildings constructed solely of wood and with very little separation between them made it easy for the fire to spread and eventually burned most of the buildings to the ground.

The Anderson's Fire

Lets fast forward 130 plus years to 2008 and another downtown fire, The Anderson's Leather Shop fire. The buildings are still constructed closely together as in 1871 but only Anderson's was damaged by fire. Why were the results different? Anderson's was constructed under Codes that required firewalls. Firewalls are non-combustible walls designed to stop the spread of fire. The building to the South of Anderson's was remodeled. Newer Codes required a Fire Sprinkler System to be installed. When the firewall eventually failed, the sprinkler system activated and kept the fire from spreading beyond Anderson's. Without these safety features required by the Code, the outcome could have been a tragic repeat of the Great Fire of 1871.



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AN INFORMED CITIZEN

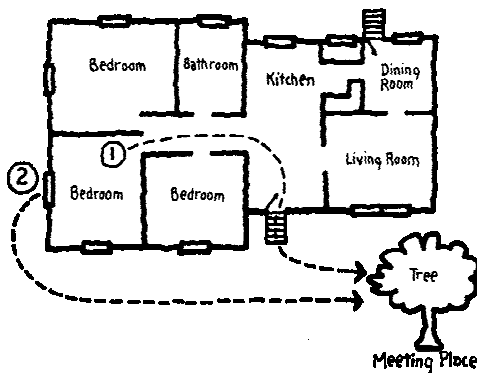


IS A BETTER CITIZEN!

Home Fire Safety

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and 20,000 are injured. An overwhelming number of fires occur in the home. Here are some simple things You can Do to make your home safer.

- Install smoke detectors. Test the detectors every month and change the batteries every 6 months. Change them during daylight savings as an easy way to remember.
- Electrical. Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords and wires under rugs or furniture.
- Appliances. Use appliances per manufacturer's safety precautions. Make sure your appliances are in good working order and serviced regularly.
- Alternate Heaters. Keep portable heaters at least 3 feet away from any combustible materials. Keep fire in the fireplace by using screens and have your chimney cleaned annually.
- Affordable Residential Sprinklers. When residential fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased. Sprinklers are affordable, they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
- Plan your escape. Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping and never open doors that are hot. Get out, then call for help.



- Caring for Children. Children under five are naturally curious about fire. Many play with matches and lighters. Tragically, children set over 20,000 house fires every year. Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching your children that fire is a tool and not a toy.
- Caring for Older People. Every year over 1,200 senior citizens die in fires. Many of these fire deaths could have been prevented. Seniors are especially vulnerable because many live alone and can't respond quickly.

Commercial Fire Safety

Access & Premises

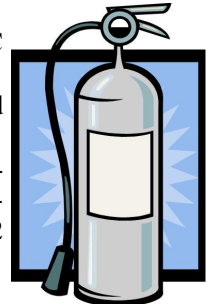
- Address numbers are visible from the street
- Fire Department access is unobstructed
- Minimum 3' clearance around a fire hydrant

Egress

- Exit ways and doors are recognizable, unobstructed and maintained functional
- Exit enclosures are free from combustible material storage.

Fire Extinguishers

- Is there access to a rated 2A-10BC extinguisher?
- Are all fire extinguishers visible and accessible?
- Have the fire extinguishers been serviced and tagged by a fire extinguisher company within the last 12 months?



Electrical

- All electrical outlets switches and junction boxes have cover plates
- Extension cords are in good condition and only used for temporary wiring.
- If multiple items need to be plugged in, is a power tap with a built-in circuit breaker used?

Emergency Lighting

- If emergency lighting is provided, is it maintained in operable condition?

Exit Signs

- If exit signs are required, are they maintained in operable condition?
- Does the backup-battery work (push the test button and the exit sign should illuminate under battery power)?

Fire Alarm System

- Has the required annual test been performed and a record posted?

Fire Suppression Systems

- Has the required annual service of the sprinkler system been performed in the last year by a qualified sprinkler company?
- In commercial cooking applications has the hood system been serviced in the last six months?

Storage of Combustibles

- Is the storage of combustible material orderly?
- Are oily rags stored in approved metal containers with tight fitting covers?

According to the United States Fire Administration, almost 85% of the businesses involved in fire never recover, even if they have insurance to cover their losses.